

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **MILLSTREET**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	27	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>221</b>

## **Millstreet, Co.Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Many thanks to Millstreet Tidy Towns Association for their very comprehensive submission. The written tour of the town was extremely useful on adjudication day. The high level of community spirit that you have garnered from both residents and owners of commercial premises is a marvelous asset to your work. Your five-year work programme is broken down year by year to indicate what is to be achieved from one year to the next, which is very helpful to the adjudication process. It is difficult to ascertain, however, what year you are currently on in relation to its progress.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Your work in regard to the removal of plastic signage is to be highly commended. The new stone walling on approach roads was greatly admired. The Railway Station looked marvellous and is obviously a great asset to the town in terms of the positive introduction it gives the visitor travelling by train to the town. Most of the buildings along the main street were well maintained. J. Cronin's is a charming traditional shop front. In terms of shop fronts making a positive contribution to this aspect of the competition were the Wallace Arms, Centra with its attractive hanging baskets, the Post Office and the Jasmine House Chinese Restaurant. The fine imposing banks contribute well to this aspect of the competition. However there were one or two shop fronts which appeared stained or in need of a fresh coat of paint. The sandstone church in its prominent location is most attractive. The national school looked well but should be painted up before next year's competition – its marvelous grounds were greatly admired. The community school and grounds looked extremely well as did the Garda station. In relation to the graveyard boundary wall the plain plaster appeared freshly painted, but the pebble-dashed panels appeared quite grubby in comparison.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Landscaping throughout the town looked well on adjudication day. The brightly painted grotto on the Macroom Road was well presented. The planting at the junction of St. John's Road and the Mallow Road was greatly admired and the landscaped "bays" breaking up the length of this latter road looked as magnificent as ever. The landscaping to the Tubrid Well was extremely well maintained – work would appear to be taking place to the car park area. The attractive landscaping at the sign on the Macroom Road were admired as were the concrete planters filled with flowers along the main street. The magnificent landscaping at the entrance to the Green Glens Arena looked marvelous as ever. On the Clara Road the new stone walling was admired with its chirpy pink flowers set against the backdrop of trees.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The River Finnow is a marvelous asset to the town in this regard. Your two wildlife areas on the road to the railway and on the Mallow Road were noted. The latter, however, appeared to be “falling between two stools”, in that it did not appear either totally natural or totally manicured but rather almost neglected. Perhaps you should consider erecting wildlife information boards to make people aware of the wealth of wildlife habitats in the vicinity.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Some rubbish was apparent on Macroom Road and some papers at the Railway Road. Quite a lot of litter was evident in the vicinity of Centra in the town centre.

## **TIDINESS**

The old petrol station on the Mallow Road looked quite unfortunate. Some unpainted buildings at the junction of the Main Street and Macroom Road looked neglected. Rusty barrels were noted on the road to the railway station – these are presumably in place to prevent an accident in relation to the collapsing retaining wall in this location. Good luck with improvements in this location. Some graffiti was noted at the back of the AIB. The murals - the flags of the Eurovision entries and that by the side of the convent - in the town should be repainted up before next year's competition. Some tin sheds on the Killarney Road should be freshly painted before next year's competition. Weeds at the kerbsides on the Clara Road should be removed. Perhaps some work in relation to improving the appearance of the Livestock Mart could be considered on the Mallow Road.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Houses in the town centre and along approach roads were well cared for on the day. Private houses and estates were generally well maintained. Of particular note was a very pretty garden to a bungalow with flowers extending to the roadside on Macroom Road. The most attractive modern house adjacent to the entrance to the Green Glens arena and its gardens looked extremely well. The cottages on the Macroom Road had a somewhat inconsistent appearance – some were extremely bright while others appeared very shabby in comparison. The cottage and boundary wall in the vicinity of the national school should be re-whitewashed before next year. Some charming cottages with glass porches on the Clara Road were admired – however a number of grubby boundary walls on this road created a bad impression.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The Macroom Road was maintained to a reasonably good standard, given it forms an extremely long entry into the town. It appeared somewhat overgrown, however, by the Maxol station. The shrubs on the Killarney Road had been cut back

but the grass below appeared quite rough in its presentation. The welcome sign on this side of the town sported some green algae growth. The level crossing sign on the station road appeared quite faded – this road was reasonably well kept on the day. The Mallow Road was as magnificently maintained as ever.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The busy town of Millstreet is making steady, but slow, progress in the competition. For next year's competition you should concentrate on the appearance of out-buildings and do make note for the adjudicator's benefit what in the current year, in relation to your five year plan.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/01)**

Some six weeks or so after the first adjudication the Macroom road had become very overgrown and neglected, creating a poor introduction to the town. The Killarney approach had been partially attended to recently. The Mallow road was by far the best presented. Despite the numerous brightly coloured building and stone walls there were still numerous shabby walls and poorly maintained laneways / gaps between buildings. Remember that everything which can be seen from the public domain is likely to be scrutinised. The town should be considered as a three dimensional object, rather than a series of frontages / facades to the roads. Encouragingly very little litter was noted this time. We wish you well with your future endeavours!